

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network comprising:

wherein said stream apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network apparatuses and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus, for inhibiting a packet from illegally accessing a first network, said stream server apparatus distributing stream data to said client apparatuses and comprising:

a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said a relevant one of the first client apparatus apparatuses via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path network without passing through the firewall apparatus, and transmits and receives packets to and from another relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to a second network, different from the first network, via the firewall apparatus and the second network and without passing through the first network;

a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second another relevant one client apparatus via the belonging to a third path network, different from the first network, via the third network and without passing through the firewall apparatus or the first network, said second interface being connected to a wide area network;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second ~~and a type of a communication protocol of one of the relevant one-client apparatus or the another relevant one-client apparatus~~; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on the communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or the second interface ~~relative to the relevant one-client apparatus or the another relevant one-client apparatus via the specified interface~~.

2. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a same communication protocol for both the relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to the first network and the another relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to the second network different from the first network.

3. (original) The stream server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication protocol uses a user datagram protocol.

4. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control request reception unit which notifies an ID of the interface specified by said stream transport management module to the client apparatuses.

5. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the second network different

from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol includes a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

6. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the second network different from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol does not include a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

7. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the second network different from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol is a stream data distributing protocol.

8. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the same network as a network to which the stream server apparatus belongs.

9. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control request reception unit notifies the client apparatuses of the ID of the specified interface, said ID being not a local ID distinguishable by the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses but a global ID

capable of being translated into the local ID by a network relay apparatus en route to a client apparatus requested stream data distribution.

10. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module comprises:

a stream transport processing unit for executing stream data distribution to the client apparatuses based upon one stream data distribution protocol; and

a bandwidth management processing unit for executing bandwidth control communication based on a control program for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution.

11. (currently amended) A network attached storage system for managing a file system and distributing stream data stored in a storage unit to client apparatuses via networks, said network attached storage system being connected to a first network and a second network comprising:

wherein said network attached storage system is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus, the client apparatuses and a firewall apparatus for preventing a packet from illegally accessing a first network and comprising:

a first interface for transmitting and receiving control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path~~packets to and from a relevant one of the client apparatuses via the first network without involvement of the firewall apparatus and~~

~~for transmitting and receiving packets to and from another relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to a second network, different from the first network, via the firewall apparatus and the second network and without passing through the first network;~~

~~a second interface for transmitting and receiving data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path another relevant one client apparatus belonging to a third network different from the first network without involvement of the firewall apparatus or the first network, said second interface being connected to a wide area network; and~~

~~a process module for executing a communication process, via an interface identified in accordance with a network attribute and a type of a communication protocol of the client apparatus and based on the communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface protocol, relative to the relevant one client apparatus.~~

12. (currently amended) An apparatus including ~~comprising~~ a storage medium with a program contained therein, the program executable by a stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, wherein said stream server apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus, to client apparatuses and a firewall apparatus which prevents a packet from illegally accessing a first network, said stream server apparatus distributing stream data to the client apparatuses and comprising a first interface which transmits and receives receiving control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and

being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path~~packets to and from a relevant one of the client apparatuses via the first network without involvement of the firewall apparatus and transmits and receives packets to and from another relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to a second network, different from the first network, via the firewall apparatus and the second network without passing through the first network, and a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path~~packets to and from the another relevant one client apparatus belonging to a third network, different from the first network, without involvement of the firewall apparatus or the first network, said second interface being connected to a wide area network, said program when executed causing the stream server apparatus to perform:

a stream transport management step of identifying said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus~~and a type of a communication protocol of one of the relevant one client apparatus or the another relevant one client apparatus;~~ and

a step of executing a communication process based on the communication ~~protocol~~ protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface~~relative to one of the relevant one client apparatus or the another relevant one client apparatus via the identified interface.~~

13. (previously presented) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, comprising:

wherein said stream server apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a

~~firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall a first client apparatus and a second client apparatus and a firewall apparatus for inhibiting a packet from illegally accessing a first local area network (LAN), said stream server apparatus distributing stream data to the first and the second client apparatuses, comprising:~~

~~a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path packets to and from the first client apparatus via the first LAN without passing through the firewall apparatus, and transmits and receives packets to and from the second client apparatus belonging to a second LAN, different from the first LAN, via the firewall apparatus and the second LAN without passing through the first LAN;~~

~~a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path packets to and from the second client apparatus belonging to a third LAN, different from the first LAN, without passing through the firewall apparatus or the first LAN, the first and second interfaces being connected to the Internet through a router;~~

~~a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus and a type of a communication protocol of a requesting one of the first and second client apparatuses; and~~

~~a process module which executes a communication process based on the communication ~~protocol~~ protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface relative to the requesting client apparatus via the specified interface;~~

wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a user datagram protocol (UDP) as the same communication protocol both for the first and second client apparatuses.